

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A computer-based method for administering financial instruments, comprising:

executing a processing program loaded on a computer, the processing program configured to establish a trust with trust units, each trust unit representing an interest in a bond having a maturity date and one or more equity security shares, the one or more equity security shares defining a share ratio; and

accessing, via one of the computer and a second computer, information stored in a database, the information in the database comprising at least trust information and equity security information, to enable ~~the~~ one of the computer and a second computer to periodically perform the following steps:

- (a) ~~compute~~ computing price of the trust units based on the share ratio for a period and current values of the bond and the one or more equity security shares;
- (b) ~~determine~~ determining a predetermined threshold price based on a par value of the trust units at maturity;
- (c) ~~compare~~ comparing the price of the trust units to the predetermined threshold price;
- (d) ~~determine~~ determining a distribution to holders of the trust units

based on the comparison, the distribution including cash payments that are paid in cash and based on share dividends of the equity security shares of the trust units and performance payments that are paid in a number of equity security shares and based on underlying asset appreciation; and

(e) ~~adjust~~ adjusting the share ratio of the trust units to reflect the distribution.

Claims 2-3 (Canceled)

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the number of equity security shares in the distribution is based on current share price and a difference between the computed price of the trust units and the predetermined threshold price.

Claim 5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1 further comprising accessing, via one of the computer and a second computer, information stored in the database to enable the one of the computer and a second computer to reinvest distributions made to holders into new trust units.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 4 further comprising accessing, via one of the computer and a second computer, information stored in the database to enable the one of the computer and a second computer to reinvest ~~reinvest~~ distributions

made to holders into new trust units by combining distribution shares with a single bond into a trust unit having an adjusted share ratio.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1 further comprising accessing, via one of the computer and a second computer, information stored in the database to enable the one of the computer and a second computer to make a final payment on or about the maturity date of the bond, the final payment comprising face value of the bond less administrative expenses.

Claim 9 (Canceled)

Claim 10 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein executing a processing program loaded on a computer includes executing a spreadsheet program loaded on the computer.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A ~~computer-based system~~ computer-readable medium including a processing program for causing a computer to administer for ~~administering~~ financial instruments, the processing program comprising:

~~a processing program loaded on a computer, the processing program including:~~

means for periodically computing price of trust units in a trust, each trust unit representing an interest in a bond having a maturity date and one or more equity security shares, the one or more equity shares defining a share ratio, the price of the trust units being based on the share ratio for a period and current values of the bond and the equity security

shares;

means for comparing the computed price of the trust units to a predetermined threshold price;

means for determining a distribution to holders of the trust units based on the comparison, the distribution including cash payments that are paid in cash and based on share dividends of the equity security shares of the trust units and performance payments that are paid in a number of equity security shares and based on underlying asset appreciation; and

means for adjusting the share ratio of the trust units to reflect the distribution.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The ~~system~~ medium of claim 11 wherein the means for comparing determines a difference between the computed price of the trust units and the predetermined threshold price, and the means for determining a distribution distributes equity security shares, where the number of equity security shares in the distribution is based on current share price and the difference.

Claim 13 (Canceled)

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The ~~system~~ medium of claim 11 wherein the processing program comprises means for reinvesting distributions made to unit holders into new trust units.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ medium of claim 12 wherein the processing program comprises means for reinvesting distributions made to holders into new

trust units by combining distribution shares with a single bond into a trust unit having an adjusted share ratio.

Claims 16-24 (Canceled)

Claim 25 (Currently Amended) A computer-based method for administering financial instruments, comprising the steps of:

executing a processing program loaded on a computer, the processing program configured to establish a trust with trust units, each unit representing an interest in a fixed-income security that has a maturity date and one or more equity security shares, the one or more equity security shares defining a share ratio; and

accessing, via one of the computer and a second computer, information stored in a database, the information in the database comprising at least trust information and equity security information, to enable the one of the computer and a second computer to periodically perform the following steps:

~~compute~~ computing price of the trust units based on the share ratio for a period, current values of the fixed-income security and the one or more equity security shares;

~~compare~~ comparing the computed price of the unit to a predetermined number, wherein the predetermined number is based on a par value of the trust at maturity;

~~determine~~ determining a distribution to holders of the trust units based on the comparison, the distribution including cash payments that are paid in cash and based on share dividends of the equity security shares of the trust units and performance payments that are paid in equity security shares and based on underlying asset appreciation; and

~~adjust~~ adjusting the share ratio of the units to reflect the distribution.

Claims 26-27 (Canceled)

Claim 28 (Currently Amended) A computer-based method, comprising the steps of:

executing a processing program loaded on a computer, the processing program receiving a selection of an equity security based on expectations for long-term capital appreciation and a selection of a long-term bond issue having a fixed maturity date and a predetermined face value and creating a trust having units, each unit representing an interest in a selected long-term bond issue and a predetermined number of shares of a selected equity security, the number of shares of the selected equity security defining a share ratio, the trust being associated with an account administrator having access to information about the trust and about customer accounts indicating ownership interest in the units; and

accessing, via one of the computer and a second computer, information stored in a database, the information in the database comprising at least trust information and equity security information, to enable the one of the computer and a second computer to periodically perform the following steps:

~~determine~~ determining a current value of the units using current market information about the selected long-term bond and the selected equity security;

~~determine~~ determining payments to customer accounts based on a difference between the current value and a predetermined number, wherein the predetermined number is based on a par value of the trust at maturity and the payments include cash payments that are

paid in cash and based on share dividends of the shares of the selected equity security of the unit and performance payments that are paid in a number of equity security shares and based on underlying asset appreciation; and

~~adjust~~ adjusting the share ratio of the units to reflect the payments.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 28 wherein the equity security is selected from among large-cap stocks.

Claim 30 (Original): The method of claim 28 wherein the long-term bond issue is a U.S. Treasury STRIP.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 30 wherein a term for the long-term bond issue is between 20 and 30 years.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 28 wherein determining the value of units is based on a quarterly period.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 28 wherein the performance payments include a number of equity security shares based on current share price and a difference between the computed price of the unit and the predetermined threshold number.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 33 further comprising

accessing, via one of the computer and a second computer, information stored in [[a]] the database to enable the one of the computer and a second computer to adjust the share ratio of the units to reflect an excess number of distributed shares.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 28 further comprising accessing, via one of the computer and a second computer, information stored in a database to enable the one of the computer and a second computer to reinvest distributions made to unit holders into new units.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 35 further comprising accessing, via one of the computer and a second computer, information stored in [[a]] the database to enable the one of the computer and a second computer to reinvest distributions made to unit holders into new trust units by combining equity security distribution shares with a single bond into a trust unit having an adjusted share ratio.

Claim 37 (Canceled)

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 28 further comprising accessing, via one of the computer and a second computer, information stored in [[a]] the database to enable the one of the computer and a second computer to make a final payment on or about the maturity date of the bond, the final payment comprising a face value of the bond less administrative expenses.



Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 28 wherein creating a trust includes developing a spreadsheet with entries corresponding to units and customer accounts.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 39 further including accessing a database accessible by the account administrator for storing information about the units and the customer accounts.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein comparing the price of the trust units to the predetermined threshold price comprises determining a price difference between the computed price of the trust units and the predetermined threshold price and wherein:

- (i) if the price difference is more than a minimum value, the distribution is equal in value to the price difference; and
- (ii) if the price difference is less than the minimum value, the distribution is equal in value to the minimum value.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): The ~~system~~ medium of claim 11, wherein the means for comparing determines a price difference between the computed price of the trust units and the predetermined threshold price and wherein:

- (i) if the price difference is more than a minimum value, the distribution is equal in value to the price difference; and
- (ii) if the price difference is less than the minimum value, the distribution is

equal in value to the minimum value.

Claim 43 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 25, wherein comparing the computed price of the unit to a predetermined number determines a price difference between the computed price of the trust units and the predetermined number and where:

- (i) if the price difference is more than a minimum value, the distribution is equal in value to the price difference; and
- (ii) if the price difference is less than the minimum value, the distribution is equal in value to the minimum value.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 28, wherein:

- (i) if the difference between the current value of the units and the predetermined number is less than zero, each payment is equal to a minimum amount;
- (ii) if the difference between the current value of the units and the predetermined number is more than zero, each payment includes an excess value payment equal in value to the difference in value; and
- (iii) if the difference between the current value of the units and the predetermined number is more than zero and less than a minimum amount, each payment includes a supplemental value payment equal to the difference between the minimum amount and the excess value payment.